

vincial of the **Second American Province**, we have decided ,with the consent of our **Council**, to appoint as his successor:

Very Reverend Father **NICHOLAS TANASKOVIC**.

The members of his Council will be:

Rev. George **SEXTON**,

1st Ordinary Consultor and Admonitor;

Rev. Charles **BURNS**,

2nd Ordinary Consultor;

Rev. Maximino **FUENTE**,

1st Extraordinary Consultor;

Rev. Frederik **BROCKMAN**,

2nd Extraordinary Consultor;

Rev. Charles **DURBIN**,

Provincial Bursar.

Praying the Sacred Heart of Jesus to continue to bless your zeal and devotedness and begging our Immaculate Mother to help and protect you, we remain, dear Fathers and Brothers,

Your very sincerely in J.C. and M.I.

LEO DESCHÂTELETS, O.M.I.

( Superior General.

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## 7. Silver Jubilee of St. Mary's Province.

February, 10th, 1951.

TO THE FATHERS AND BROTHERS  
OF ST. MARY'S PROVINCE.

*My dear Fathers and Brothers,*

St. Mary's Province commemorates an important event on March 15th, namely, the Silver Jubilee

of its foundation. As Superior General, on behalf of our dear Congregation, I extend my sincerest and most heartfelt congratulations to all members of the Province, and I express my warmest good wishes for the future of the Province.

The Silver Jubilee celebration recalls to mind the pioneer Oblates of the Province, who inspired by the true Oblate spirit of an apostolate among God's poor, did not hesitate for even a moment, to make common cause with poor immigrant families to safeguard their Faith and to save their souls. We recall how early missionaries travelled afoot, by buggy or sleigh, over endless miles of prairie, at times, defying blinding blizzards, to give comfort and courage to the homesteaders. The first Fathers often camped in the hospitable sod-built homes, and shared the many privations of the settlers. They were filled with the spirit of conquest; they were filled with dauntless courage and perseverance; obstacles were there to be overcome. They contributed towards the up-building and development of our Canadian West as much as anyone. They did this by maintaining the traditions of Faith and culture, which the settlers brought to their adopted country, traditions of Faith and culture which are so necessary to an enduring Nation.

I congratulate the Fathers for their foresight and vision in establishing colonies. Nothing is more natural than to have relatives and friends as neighbors, than to have a community composed of families which are of the same Faith and cultural traditions. If solid Catholic traditions have been maintained, it is due in great part, to the environment in which our faithful live. And all the while there was no harmful isolationism, nor segregation. The new home makers embraced their new homeland with heart and soul; they are as staunchly and loyally Canadian as anyone can be; Canada is for them their *Home*,

and for all their Canadian-born descendants, it is *Home and Native Land*. And so our early settlers and missionaries are the true founders of our Canadian West. They developed and built up the vast expanses of Western Canada. Canadians, of many racial origins, to this day constitute the bulk of our Catholic population of the Prairie Provinces.

I congratulate our Fathers for exercising their ministry in accordance with the Mind of Holy Mother Church in as much as they never hesitated to speak to the faithful in the language they know best. It is quite commonplace for Fathers of St. Mary's Province to speak at least three languages, fluently. Undoubtedly many settlers would have lost the Faith, first, because our Fathers were the only priests, and secondly because the people knew no other language than their own. A number of Fathers even learned an additional language in order to better be: « *All things to all men* ».

Our Congregation, realizing that the apostolate among early settlers, originating from many countries of Europe, constituted a specialized ministry, decided to group all Fathers together who were engaged in that ministry. As a result, the Congregation, on March 15th, 1926, with the approval of the Holy See, established St. Mary's Province. From a very limited and small number of 40, the Province has steadily grown, so that it now counts 118 Fathers, 28 Scholastics and 8 Lay Brothers. The Province has two Houses of studies and its own Scholasticate; it has its works of the Catholic Press. In very truth, God, through the intercession of our Immaculate Mother, has blessed the Province in a most special and superabundant manner.

What made a most favorable impression upon everyone was, that from the very beginning of the Province, you organized religious Districts and made every sacrifice to promote religious life. Monthly retreats, regular theological conferences, the annual

retreats, deliberations concerning methods of the ministry, the faithful sending in of religious and financial reports, fidelity in asking for required permissions are part and parcel of your regular programme. Moreover, you made every personal sacrifice for the material well-being of the Province. We realize that, for years, because of depression, bad crops and debt, the Province was quasi-paralyzed; it was only through your practice of poverty and your spirit of sacrifice that the Province remained solvent. When I consider all this and the many others things that might be said, I do not wonder that the Province has been singularly blessed and that it has grown beyond expectations. The Province has been blessed, precisely, because you lived, not only as good priests, but as faithful religious. God will reward you still more for your faithfulness and for your loyal attachment to Congregation and Province.

When we consider the religious spirit of the Province, we do not wonder that your ministry has been blessed and appreciated. When I say « appreciated » I think of the College Drive; if you have the new College in North Battleford and the Oblate House of studies in Toronto, it is because of the College Drive. Next to the loving intercession of our Dear Mother and the blessing of her Divine Son, the magnificent results were made possible, only and alone, because every member of the Province did his own fair share to cooperate and because our faithful and benefactors outdid themselves in their generosity. More than all else, it was the first given opportunity for them to publicly say « thank you » for all you have done for them. The support of the faithful was the grandest endorsement they could publicly give to your ministry, and it was indisputable proof of their affection and loyalty for their Oblate missionaries.

It gives me pleasure to note that the pioneering spirit is not dead in your midst. The Peace River District, with its missionaries, belongs to St. Mary's Province. We know that you will develop the country and establish the Church in that area, in the same manner and with the same vision and courage it was established in the Western Plains. That means a real pioneering spirit, real mission-mindedness. As our Venerated Founder wished it, our motto will always be: « *Nihil linquendum inausum ut profectur imperium Christi.* »

Undoubtedly, your greatest need is vocations. You do not have a sufficient number of Fathers and Brothers. Some of you have spent themselves in God's service, and there are not enough recruits to follow in their footsteps. It is a tragic reality. You do not have enough vocations. And when I say « vocations », I am thinking, not only of replacements, not only of a mission-band, not only of the Province, but I am also thinking of the Peace River District, of the Foreign Missions. The Congregation expects the Province to provide many missionaries for the Missions at home and abroad. The Province will reach new heights only when that objective is realized. That is what is needed to « *make* » a Province, to make it truly vigorous and dynamic. Our vision must never be limited by the narrow confines of one's own Province, but it must embrace the entire Congregation and the whole world. May mission-mindedness, zeal and apostolic spirit ever increase in all the members of our dear St. Mary's Province.

It follows, naturally, that every single Father and Brother of the Province must consider it a personal and individual obligation to do his own fair share to get vocations for the Oblate priesthood and Brotherhood. It is not enough that our devoted educators should carry the responsibility alone. We know that we can count on them to conduct our apostolic schools in accordance with their primary

and principal end, which is, before all else, first and foremost, to provide the Church with religious and priestly vocations. But that is not enough: At all costs and by all means, every single member of the Province must make supreme efforts to get more vocations. Vocations can be found and must be found. Must we not look forward to the day when every parish gives the Church its fair share of vocations?

And when we think of vocations, our hearts are filled with profoundest gratitude for all the Mother-Provinces who have provided St. Mary's Province with missionaries. They made the Province and its marvelous development possible. To them, our warmest and lasting appreciation. May God, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, reward them a thousandfold.

There are many more things which I could say. May it suffice to add that my principal message is that, I am with you heart and soul, united with every single one of you in the closest bonds of affection and Oblate charity. May you ever remain united with the Congregation and Province and ever grow in personal holiness, «*usque ad apicem perfectionis*». I join with you whole-heartedly in the celebration of your Silver Jubilee, as do all the members of the General Administration.

In closing, dear Fathers and Brothers, with a full heart, I wish you peace, happiness and every blessing in the Province. *Floreat et crescat*. To every Father and Brother, my fondest paternal blessing.

Yours ever most affectionately and devotedly in  
O.L. and M.I.

LEO DESCHÂTELETS, O.M.I.  
*Superior General.*